

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR TREATING TUBERS WITH A POWDERED ORGANIC COMPOUND

ABSTRACT

The present invention provides both a process and apparatus for treating tubers
5 in storage with chlorpropham (CIPC) dust or the dust of any other similar organic
compound. The process includes the steps of forming minute particles of solid CIPC
particles from a larger block or chunks of solid CIPC, and inducting the particles into an
airstream which transports the particles to a tuber storage shed. For a preferred
10 embodiment of the invention, the blocks or chunks of solid CIPC are fed into a hammer
mill or like apparatus, which pulverizes the solid CIPC. Insufficiently fine particles are
returned to the mill for further pulverization. Fine powder consisting of particles, each of
which has a major dimension of less than about 5 micrometers, is transported by the
ducted airstream from the separator to a storage shed containing a pile of tubers. The
powder filters through the pile and coats exposed surfaces of the exposed tubers.